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CITE TDFIR -314/05985-73

DIST 16 JULY 1973

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by DKS, FSC

Political Matters

COUNTRY VENEZUELA/CUBA

DOI EARLY JULY 1973

SUBJECT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT
OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND CUBA WHICH
INCLUDE AN AGREEMENT FOR VENEZUELA TO PROVIDE
PETROLEUM TO CUBA AND A POSSIBLE CONFIDENTIAL
ARRANGEMENT CONCERNING THE CUBAN CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRAT MOVEMENT

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-11-94 BY SP8MAC/KSR

ACQ [VENEZUELA, CARACAS] (16 JULY 1973) [FIELD NO. HVC-6753] (S)

SOURCE A BUSINESSMAN WITH A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL,
BUSINESS, AND SOCIAL CONTACTS. HE IS VERY CLOSE
TO TOP LEADERS OF THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (COPEI)
PARTY. HIS RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED.
HE RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FROM A TOP COPEI LEADER.

1. VENEZUELA IS AGREEABLE TO AND IS PLANNING TO
PROVIDE OIL TO CUBA AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH
WILL ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO

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COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERNING VENEZUELAN SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (COPEI) PARTY WHO ALSO IS INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH RELATIONS. THIS OFFICIAL SAID IN EARLY JULY 1973 THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES NOW HAVE ADVANCED TO THE STAGE WHERE IT IS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY THAT THEY BE CONDUCTED AT THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL. ACCORDINGLY, VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT RAFAEL CALDERA WILL STOP BRIEFLY IN CUBA ON HIS WAY BACK FROM ATTENDING THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER TO PERSONALLY DISCUSS VENEZUELAN/ CUBAN RELATIONS WITH CUBAN PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO RUZ. (FIELD COMMENT: [HVC-6750] FROM THIS SAME SOURCE AND A USUALLY RELIABLE SECURITY SERVICE SOURCE, REPORTS CALDERA'S PLAN TO STOP IN CUBA.)

2. THE SHIPMENT OF VENEZUELAN OIL TO CUBA WILL BE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE TWO LEADERS, ALTHOUGH THIS OIL WILL BE FOR CONSUMPTION IN CUBA, VENEZUELA WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR

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IT BY A THIRD COUNTRY. (SOURCE COMMENT: THE OFFICIAL DID NOT IDENTIFY THE THIRD COUNTRY.) (FIELD COMMENT: [HVC-6711]^(S) TDFIR-314/ 04600 -73, IS THE MOST RECENT REPORT ON SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS WITH VENEZUELA FOR PURCHASE OF PETROLEUM FOR SHIPMENT TO CUBA. BASED ON THIS AND PREVIOUS REPORTS, THE THIRD COUNTRY REFERRED TO BY THE COPEI OFFICIAL IS PROBABLY THE USSR.) ALTHOUGH CUBA HAS LITTLE THAT COULD ADEQUATELY COMPENSATE VENEZUELA FOR OIL, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS PLANNED PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

3. (FIELD COMMENT: A SOURCE WHO IS BELIEVED TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION REPORTED IN EARLY JULY THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY ~~LUIS~~ O V A R, HEAD OF THE SENATE COMMISSION ON MINES AND HYDROCARBONS, THAT ONE OF PRESIDENT CALDERA'S OBJECTIVES IN MAKING THE TECHNICAL STOP IN CUBA IS TO DISCUSS THE SALE OF VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM TO CUBA. HE SAID DISCUSSIONS ON THE SALE HAVE BEEN HELD ALREADY BUT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE ANY ACTION ON THE

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NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE CALDERA STOP IN CUBA TAKES PLACE. THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT CASTRO WILL RAISE THE SUBJECT DURING HIS TALK WITH CALDERA AND THE LATTER PLANS TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE CUBAN PROPOSITION FOR SUCH A SALE. TOVAR SAID COPEI HAS ARRANGED FOR THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS WITH CAMPAIGN BENEFITS FOR THE DECEMBER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN MIND. HE SAID GONZALO ~~X~~ A R C I A ~~X~~ BUSTILLOS, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, IS HANDLING THE ARRANGEMENTS ON THE PETROLEUM SALE.)

4. ONE POINT WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS IS THE STATUS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN CUBA, AND THIS ALSO WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE TWO LEADERS. IDEALLY, VENEZUELA DESIRES THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT LEGALIZE THE STATUS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN CUBA BUT VENEZUELA IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THIS. CALDERA THEREFORE IS PLANNING TO ASK CASTRO THAT HIS GOVERNMENT REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS IT HAS PLACED ON THE MOVEMENT AND ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN

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PROMINENT CUBAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, SOME OF WHOM CURRENTLY ARE IMPRISONED IN CUBA, THE LIFTING OF SUCH RESTRICTIONS WOULD INCLUDE PERMITTING THE DEPARTURE OF THESE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FROM CUBA IF ANY OF THEM SO DESIRED. ANY AGREEMENT REACHED CONCERNING THESE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY REVEALED AS THIS IS BEING NEGOTIATED AS A CONFIDENTIAL FAVOR REQUESTED BY THE VENEZUELAN FROM THE CUBANS.

(FIELD COMMENT: [HVC-6682]^(S), FIRDB-312/02058-73 -73, FROM THE SOURCE OF THIS REPORT, COVERS COPEI NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBA CONCERNING THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY AT CARACAS.

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